



Long Island Rail Road

October 9, 2009

The Honorable Anna-Throne-Holst
Council Member, Town of Southampton
Town Hall 116 Hampton Road
Southampton, NY 11968

Dear Council Member Throne-Holst:

I am writing to advise you of an important project representing a major investment on the part of the Long Island Rail Road to modernize a signal and switching point in Valley Stream and to bring better service to your constituents.

While the LIRR has tried very hard to reduce the impact the project will have on our train network, **over the weekend of October 24-25** we must bring the new system online and as a result **there will be no train service between Jamaica and Valley Stream**. We would appreciate your assistance in sharing project and travel information with your constituents, as follows:

- Customers are strongly advised to use North Shore and Main Line branches;
- Buses will replace some trains, other trains will be rerouted, and special schedules will be in effect on all branches;
- Montauk Branch trains will operate, but departure times will change; and
- Check our website at www.mta.info/lirr and click on "Valley Interlocking Switch and Signal Improvement Project."

I have enclosed copies of our brochure with additional details. If I can be of any other assistance, or if you would like to discuss this project, please contact Director of Government Affairs Robert Brennan at 718-558-7500.

Thank you in advance for your assistance as we move toward a more modern train operation.

Sincerely,

Helena E. Williams
President

enclosure

Here is what will be happening:

Dear LIRR Customers:

The LIRR is bringing state-of-the-art technology to an important switching point in Valley Stream, the convergence point for nearly half of the LIRR's eleven branches. On the weekend of October 24-25, 2009, the final step in the Valley Interlocking Switch & Signal Improvements Project will take place, as the signal system that controls the interlocking is cut over to a new microprocessor unit.

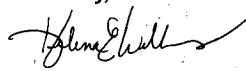
This work will have a significant impact on weekend train travel - particularly on the South Shore. To complete this project, a 48-hour service outage through Valley Stream will be required, altering service on the Babylon, Montauk, Long Beach, Far Rockaway and West Hempstead branches. Service between Greenport and Ronkonkoma will also be affected. This modernization project represents a major investment (\$60 million) on the part of the LIRR to ensure greater reliability.

This brochure is designed to provide an overview of the impact on service. Please watch for other informational items to follow and be sure to pick up special October 24-25 weekend timetables for changes to your regular weekend schedules.

If you plan to use the LIRR on the weekend of October 24-25, the BEST way to avoid delays is to simply use another branch, like the Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Port Jefferson and Port Washington lines, which will be unaffected by the work. Main Line stations Ronkonkoma through Bethpage are also good alternatives.

I want to thank you in advance for your patience and understanding while we complete this important project. The LIRR is committed to completing this work as quickly as possible while limiting its impact on your weekend travel plans and the communities we serve.

Sincerely,



Helena E. Williams
President - MTA Long Island Rail Road

Customer Impacts

The final phase of the Valley Interlocking Switch & Signal Improvements Project will require a 48-hour suspension of train service on the weekend of October 24-25. As a result, there will be no train service through Valley Stream and all South Shore branches will be impacted. Buses will replace some trains, other trains will be rerouted, and special weekend timetables will be in effect.

To avoid delays, customers should use unaffected stations on the north shore or Main Line branches if possible.

We urge you to plan ahead by reviewing this brochure, picking up the special timetables, logging on to www.mta.info, or by calling the LIRR's 24-hour Travel Information Center at 516-822-LIRR; 631-231-LIRR; or 718-217-LIRR.

Summary of Changes for Saturday, October 24 & Sunday, October 25

Babylon Branch

Rockville Centre & Baldwin

- Buses will replace all trains between Baldwin, Rockville Centre & Jamaica
- Expect up to 30 minutes of added travel time

Freeport through Lindenhurst

- Westbound: Customers must travel east to go west, with hourly shuttle train service to Babylon. Customers will transfer at Babylon for a train traveling north through Hicksville to points west.
- Eastbound: Customers at Penn Station, Flatbush Avenue and Jamaica will board trains that operate through Hicksville to Babylon, then transfer to a westbound train making local stops from Lindenhurst to Freeport
- Expect up to 50 minutes of added travel time

Far Rockaway Branch

- Buses replace trains between Rosedale and Far Rockaway
- To avoid busing, customers at Far Rockaway can use the **A** subway line. Far Rockaway through Gibson customers can use LI Bus N31/32 to Hempstead, and transfer to the LIRR.
- Expect up to 40 minutes of added travel time

Long Beach Branch

- Buses replace trains between Jamaica and Lynbrook
- Shuttle trains will operate between Lynbrook and Long Beach
- Expect up to 50 minutes of added travel time

Montauk Branch

- Some trains will depart earlier than usual to accommodate extra stops/extra customers
- Some trains will be re-routed via the MainLine/Central Branch

West Hempstead Branch

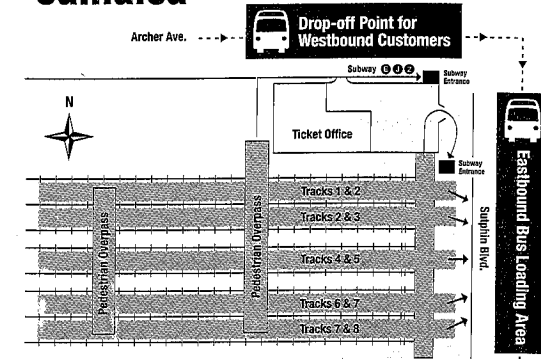
- Buses will replace trains between Jamaica and West Hempstead
- Vans will replace trains between Jamaica and St. Albans
- To avoid busing, customers are advised to use the LIRR's nearby Hempstead Branch
- Expect up to 45 minutes of added travel time

Greenport to Ronkonkoma

- Buses will replace trains between Greenport and Ronkonkoma
- Allow up to 40 minutes of added travel time

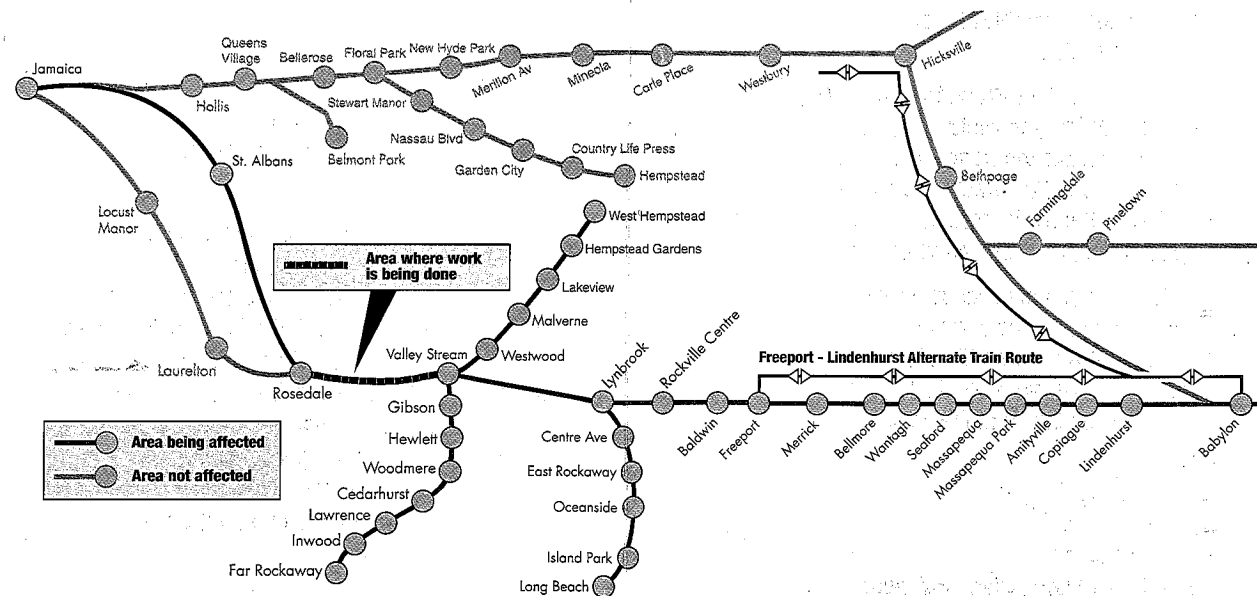
Designated Bus Stops

Jamaica



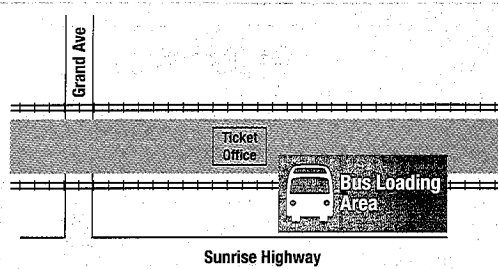
- Eastbound: Customers will board buses on Sutphin Blvd.
- Westbound: Customers will exit buses on Archer Avenue
- Extra LIRR personnel will be on hand to assist and direct customers

continued over



Designated Bus Stops *Continued*

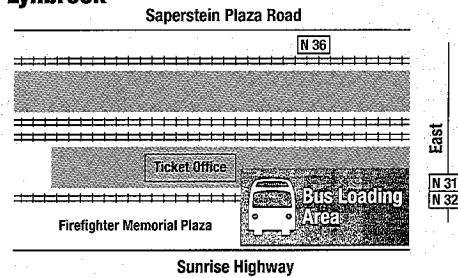
Baldwin



Baldwin

- Buses will depart from the south side of the station building (Sunrise Highway side)

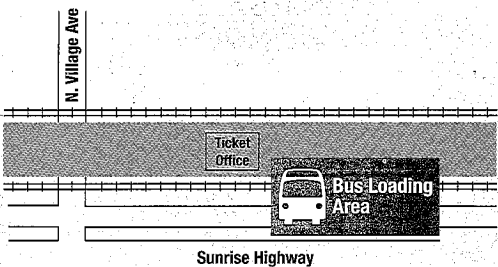
Lynbrook



Lynbrook

- Buses will depart from the south side of the station building (Sunrise Highway side)

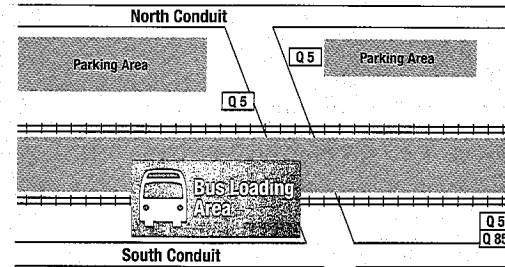
Rockville Centre



Rockville Centre

- Buses will depart from the south side of the station building

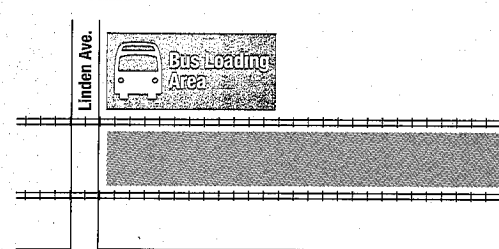
Rosedale



Rosedale

- Buses will depart from the south side of the elevated station (Sunrise Highway/South Conduit side)

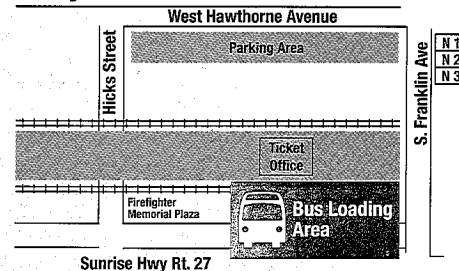
St. Albans



St. Albans

- Vans will depart from the west side of the elevated station (Linden Blvd. side)

Valley Stream



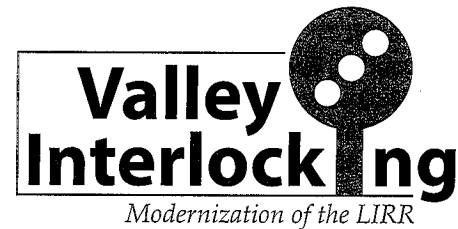
Valley Stream

- Buses will depart from the south side of the station building (Sunrise Highway side)

Travel Tips

- Pick up special weekend timetables dated October 24-25
- Consider taking the Hempstead, Oyster Bay, Port Jefferson, Port Washington or Ronkonkoma Branches
- Allow 30-50 minutes of additional travel time
- Sign up for Customer E-Mail Alerts at www.mta.info/lirr
- Monitor radio and TV traffic reports for updates
- Buy LIRR tickets in advance
- Listen for announcements about track and platform changes
- Leave bicycles at home. Bicycles will not be permitted on buses
- Look for LIRR personnel at key locations

We thank you for your patience and understanding as we work to complete these infrastructure improvements in the shortest time frame possible.



Please pick up a copy of the October 24 & 25 timetable for your branch

LIRR Travel Information Center:

New York City.....(718) 217-LIRR
 Nassau.....(516) 822-LIRR
 Suffolk.....(631) 231-LIRR
 TDD Hearing Impaired.....(718) 558-3022
www.mta.info



Modernization of the LIRR:

Valley Interlocking Switch & Signal Improvements

Weekend of Saturday & Sunday October 24 & October 25

- No Train Service through Valley Stream**
- Buses Replace Some Trains, Other Trains Rerouted**
- Allow 30-50 Minutes Extra Travel Time**
- Special Timetables in Effect**
- To Avoid Delays, Use North Shore and Main Line Branches**

